

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/696,806

Examiner

Fred A. Casca

Applicant(s)

BUCKLEY, ADRIAN

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to June 20, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 6-13, 16-23, 25-26, and 28-37.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, filed on June 20th, 2007, with respect to independent claims 1, 11, 23 and 30 have been considered and are persuasive. The new limitations to independent claims 1, 11, 23 and 30 have not been found or suggested by prior art. The rejection of claims 1-3, 6-13, 16-23, 25-26, and 28-37 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John J. Oskorep on September 14, 2007.

[Begin Audit]

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-2, 6-12, 16-19, 21-23, 26, 29-31, 33-35, and 37 have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating cellular network broadcast information to one or more mobile stations by a wireless local area network, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, from a plurality of cellular networks or a network database, cellular network broadcast information associated with and identifying the plurality of cellular networks available for communication with a mobile station;

formatting the cellular network broadcast information in a generic container message which varies in content and format in accordance with different cellular standards associated with the plurality of cellular networks, the generic container message including a first data field for identifying a first technology standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network, and a technology-specific container field having first cellular network broadcast information which is formatted in accordance with the first technology standard or standard organization identified in the first data field; and

transmitting, from the wireless local area network, the generic container message which includes the cellular network broadcast information for receipt and use by the mobile station in performing a network selection procedure to select one of the plurality of cellular networks for communication.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of transmitting the generic container message comprises transmitting the generic container message in an authentication procedure which utilizes an extensible authentication protocol.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generic container message includes a tag field for identifying the generic container message.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless local area network is adapted for communications in accordance with IEEE 802.11.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes:

the first cellular network information from the first cellular network; and
second cellular network information from a second cellular network.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes:

the first cellular network information from the first cellular network having a first information content; and

second cellular network information from a second cellular network having a second information content different from the first information content.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes:

first cellular network information which identifies the first cellular network;
and

second cellular network information which identifies a second cellular network.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first cellular network broadcast information includes a mobile network code (MNC) and a mobile country code (MCC) which identifies the first cellular network.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving and processing cellular network broadcast information from a wireless local area network (WLAN) by a mobile station, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at the mobile station, a generic container message from the WLAN, the generic container message including cellular network broadcast information associated with and identifying a plurality of cellular networks available for communication, the generic container message varying in content and format in accordance with different cellular standards associated with the plurality of cellular networks, the generic container message including a first data field for identifying a first technology standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network, and a technology-specific container field having first cellular network broadcast information which is formatted in accordance with the first technology standard or standard organization identified in the first data field;

decoding the generic container message to identify the cellular network broadcast information associated with the plurality of cellular networks available for communication, which includes decoding the first cellular network broadcast information based on the first technology standard or standard organization identified in the first data field;

storing the cellular network broadcast information in memory of the mobile station; and

performing a network selection procedure to select one of the plurality of cellular networks for communication using the cellular network broadcast information stored in the memory.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the act of receiving the generic container message comprises receiving the generic container message in an authentication procedure which utilizes an extensible authentication protocol.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the generic container message includes a tag field which identifies the generic container message.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the first cellular network broadcast information includes a mobile network code (MNC) and a mobile country code (MCC) which identifies the first cellular network.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes the first cellular network information which identifies the first cellular network and second cellular network information which identifies a second cellular network, the method further comprising:

selecting one of the first and the second cellular networks for communication through the wireless local area network.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes:

the first cellular network information from the first cellular network which operates in accordance with a first communication standard; and

second cellular network information from a second cellular network which operates in accordance with a second communication standard different from the first communication standard.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes:

the first cellular network information from the first cellular network having a first information content; and

second cellular network information from a second cellular network having a second information content different from the first information content.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein one of the cellular networks operates in accordance with a 3rd Generation Project Partnership (3GPP) standard.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes a System Identification (SID) which identifies the first cellular network.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes a System Identification (SID) which identifies the first cellular network.

23. (Currently Amended) A wireless local area network which is adapted to communicate cellular network broadcast information to one or more mobile stations by receiving, from a plurality of cellular networks or a network database, cellular network broadcast information associated with and identifying the plurality of cellular networks available for communication; formatting the cellular network broadcast information in a generic container message which varies in content and format in accordance with different cellular standards associated with the plurality of cellular networks, the generic container message includes a

first data field for identifying a first technology standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network, and a technology-specific container field having first cellular network broadcast information which is formatted in accordance with the first technology standard or standard organization identified in the first data field; and transmitting, in an authentication procedure which utilizes an extensible authentication protocol, the generic container message for receipt and use by a mobile station in performing a network selection procedure to select one of the plurality of cellular networks for communication.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The wireless local area network of claim 23, wherein the generic container message includes a tag field for identifying the generic container message.

26. (Currently Amended) The wireless local area network of claim 23, wherein the wireless local area network is adapted for communications in accordance with IEEE 802.11.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The wireless local area network of claim 23, wherein the wireless local area network is adapted for communications in

accordance with IEEE 802.11, and the extensible authentication protocol comprises an Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP).

29. (Currently Amended) The wireless local area network of claim 23, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes:
the first cellular network information from the first cellular network; and
second cellular network information from a second cellular network.

30. (Currently Amended) A mobile station, comprising:
a controller;
memory coupled to the controller;
a radio frequency (RF) transceiver coupled to the controller;
an antenna coupled to the RF transceiver;
the RF transceiver being operative to receive a generic container message from a wireless local area network, the generic container message including cellular network broadcast information associated with and identifying a plurality of cellular networks available for communication, the generic container message varying in content and format in accordance with different cellular standards associated with the plurality of cellular networks, the generic container message including a first data field for identifying a first technology standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network, and a technology-specific container field having first cellular network broadcast information which is formatted in accordance

with the first technology standard or standard organization identified in the first data field;

the RF transceiver and the controller being further operative to decode the generic container message to identify the cellular network broadcast information associated with the plurality of cellular networks, which includes being operative to decode the first cellular network broadcast information based on the first technology standard or standard organization identified in the first data field;

the controller being further operative to store the cellular network broadcast information in memory of the mobile station; and

the controller being further operative to perform a network selection procedure to select one of the plurality of cellular networks for communication using the cellular network broadcast information stored in the memory.

31. (Currently Amended) The mobile station of claim 30, wherein the RF transceiver is further operative to receive the generic container message in an authentication procedure which utilizes an extensible authentication protocol.

32. (Original) The mobile station of claim 30, wherein the generic container message includes a tag field which identifies the generic container message.

33. (Currently Amended) The mobile station of claim 30, wherein the mobile station is adapted for communications in accordance with IEEE 802.11.

34. (Currently Amended) The mobile station of claim 30, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes:

the first cellular network information from the first cellular network; and
second cellular network information from a second cellular network.

35. (Currently Amended) The mobile station of claim 30, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes a mobile network code (MNC) and a mobile country code (MCC) which identifies the first cellular network.

36. (Original) The mobile station of claim 30, wherein the mobile station is further operative to store the cellular network broadcast information for a cellular network in association with its set service identifier or "SSID".

37. (Currently Amended) The mobile station of claim 30, wherein the cellular network broadcast information includes a System Identification (SID) which identifies the first cellular network.

Claims 4-5, 14-15, 24, and 27 have been cancelled.

[End Audit]

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 6-10 (*renumbered as 4-8 respectively*), 11-13 (*renumbered as 10-12*), 16-20 (*renumbered as 13-17*), 21 (*renumbered as 9*), 22-23 (*renumbered as 18-19 respectively*), 25-26 (*renumbered as 20-21*), 28-37 (*renumbered as 22-31 respectively*) are allowed.

The following is the examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The arguments, filed on June 20th, 2007, with respect to claims 1-3, 6-13, 16-23, 25-26, and 28-37 are persuasive. The limitations "the generic container message including a first data field for identifying a first technology standard or standard organization associated with a first cellular network, and a technology-specific container field having first cellular network broadcast information which is formatted in accordance with the first technology standard or standard organization identified in the first data field" to independent claims 1, 11, 23 and 30 have not been found or suggested by prior art.

Any comments necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

4. Any response to this Office Action should be mailed to:

U.S Patent and Trademark Office

Commissioner of Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or Faxed to: 571-273-8300.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred A. Casca whose telephone number is (571) 272-7918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester Kincaid, can be reached at (571) 272-7922.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


LESTER G. KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER